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TOP SECRET

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27 October 1960

*Comer - D-24*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, USIB

SUBJECT: Handling of Cuban Photography

1. The military services and the CIA components most concerned have been consulted regarding the most practical means of implementing your injunction that in the handling of Cuban photography we must provide:

a. As strict security control as that effected in the TALENT System.

b. That those in the T System who have no need for information about Cuban photography be excluded, and

c. That those who require access to Cuban material and who are outside of the T System be prevented access to photography in the T System on other areas.

2. We conclude that the most practical means of achieving your injunction is as follows:

a. The material at the factory will be titled TOP SECRET ZEBUB instead of TOP SECRET CHESS as applied for other areas.

b. That those in the T System requiring access to the Cuban material be listed on each agency Access List by the authority of the senior intelligence chief in each agency and filed with the TCO/CIA.

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c. The Access List will also include those not now in the T System who by virtue of their function require access. They will be cleared according to T standards and will sign the T security agreement which makes no reference whatsoever to overflight photography. They will be debriefed upon conclusion of their "must know" requirement for access to the material.

d. Graphic materials which must be made available at a SECRET level will be sanitized in such a way that they may be attributed to photography acquired over Cuba prior to January 1, 1960. Unless this can be done the material may not in any case be released as SECRET. In no case may sanitized photography be given a classification less than SECRET NOFORN.

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3. I have already informed you of the strong desire of the military services that the original material and the information derived therefrom be SECRET NOFORN to permit them to meet their responsibilities and their strong objection to the establishment of another separate security system.

4. I have informed the agencies that the decision which must be made immediately is for titling at the factory and that that titling will definitely be TOP SECRET ZEBUB. Also I have informed them that when completed at the factory it will move to PIC to be held pending any settlement at the USIB level on the overall question if indeed any one of their superiors wishes to raise the matter to that level. In case of such delay the participating agencies may exploit the material to meet their operational needs giving access only to those who conform to T security standards and who have a "must know" requirement for access.

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5. Recommendation: That the procedures outlined in paragraph 2 above for the handling of Cuban photography be approved.

[REDACTED]

JAMES Q. REBER  
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance